

# THE PILLAR

A NEWSLETTER OF THE WMU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

July 2011  
Volume III

## CONTENTS

Summer 2011  
Table of Contents

1

Teaching Fellows Announced

2

A Message from the Dean  
Upcoming Events  
Sangren Hall Updates

3

Fellows (cont. from p. 1)

4

Student/Alumni News

5-6

Faculty/Staff News

7

In Memorium

8

Class Notes  
Alumni Spotlight

9

Keep in Touch  
Giving

## Teaching fellows announced in Lansing include 12 headed for WMU

A dozen students headed to WMU are among recipients of the highly competitive W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellowships announced today in a ceremony in Gov. Rick Snyder's office at the Capitol.

WMU is one of six Michigan universities invited to recruit both recent college graduates and those seeking a different career for three-year fellowships designed to attract promising educators with strong backgrounds in science, technology, engineering and mathematics--known as STEM disciplines. Fellows receive \$30,000 to pursue a customized master's degree program that prepares them to teach in high-need urban or rural secondary schools in seven districts across the state.

The inaugural class of WKKF-WW Michigan Teaching Fellows who will study at WMU includes newly minted college graduates from colleges across Michigan as well as veteran science professionals who earned their degrees around the nation as long ago as 1979.

The Battle Creek based W.K. Kellogg Foundation launched the statewide fellowship program in 2009 with \$18 million in support. Sterling Speirn, president and CEO of the Kellogg Foundation, joined Gov. Rick Snyder and the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation President Arthur Levine in announcing the inaugural class of fellows. The fellows were selected from a highly competitive pool of 1,500 applicants hailing from a variety of experiences and former careers in math- and science-related fields.

Loretta Vaara of Holland says she's a perfect example of the kind of career change the fellowships make possible. She has a mathematics degree, an MBA and a track record as an engineer and project manager in the automotive industry. She was also ready to return to the work force after time off to focus on her family. "Teaching was always in the back of my mind, even in college," Vaara says. "But I knew what a teacher did and I wanted to try something different." *fellows, continued on pg 3*



Shanda Bennett



Karen Deppe



Mark Garrod



Helen Hale



Sarah Jenzen



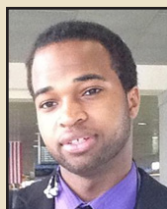
Melanie Kapolka



Mitchell Overway



Onika Powell



Travis Smith



Trevor Stefanick



Kerry Steinke



Loretta Vaara



## Upcoming Events

### Thursday, September 1, 2011

Campus Resource Fair -  
Designed to help students learn  
all about campus resources,  
organizations and departments.  
Come learn about campus and  
eat free food!  
12:30 - 2 p.m., Flagpoles

### Tuesday, September 6, 2011

Fall semester begins. Classes  
begin at 8 a.m.

### Friday, September 9, 2011

Bronco Bash, welcome back  
festival in Fountain Plaza,  
3 to 7 p.m. Free.

### Thursday, September 22, 2011

Major Excitement!  
**Alumni Volunteer Opportunity**  
Enjoy a breakfast with  
fellow alumni then talk with  
undergraduate students  
interested in CoEHD majors in  
an outdoor college fair setting.  
Contact [jillian.grosscup@wmich.edu](mailto:jillian.grosscup@wmich.edu)  
if you'd like to join us.

**October 3rd - 8th**  
Homecoming Week

### Thursday, October 27, 2011

2011 Golden Apple Awards  
Ceremony/Dinner  
Contact the College of Education  
and Human Development Dean's  
Office (269) 387-2960 for ticket  
information.

Greetings!

## A Message from the Dean

I hope this edition of our newsletter finds all of you enjoying the summer. Sadly, we recently lost one of our very own, Dr. Larissa Frias from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. Larissa passed away unexpectedly and left a big void in her department and our college. She was a vibrant and talented teacher and researcher who cared deeply about her students. She will be missed.

We are currently engaged in the college in addressing excellence in our teaching, research and service. We have a very talented group of faculty, staff and students, and to build upon this talent we have embarked on a visioning exercise aimed at defining excellence in our college within our programs, department and college as a whole. We feel that this activity will assist in our strategic planning efforts to build for the future of the college in terms of our programs and in our ability to respond to the needs of our students, our communities, state and nation.

In short, our goal is to identify and celebrate our points of distinction as a college and build upon the rich tradition that the College of Education and Human Development has fostered over time at WMU. We want to be the college of choice for those students considering a career in one of our many program areas.

I encourage you to make it a point to visit our website, peruse our programs or better yet pay us a visit, and when you do, feel free to stop by my office and I will be happy to visit with you about our wonderful college.

Wishing you all the best,

John Wheeler



Dr. John J. Wheeler

## Sangren Hall Updates

Weekly issues of *Over the Fence* are available on the College of Education and Human Development web site. The *Over the Fence* newsletter provides up-to-date information on the Sangren Hall building site including progress and photos.

Much work has been completed on the Sangren job site during the last three months. The steel framework was erected and completed on May 23rd. All footings and foundation are now complete. The membrane roofing system is complete on the north end of the building and is currently being installed on the south end. Crews continue to pour concrete slabs and fireproof all floors. Below is a photo taken of the site on June 27th, 2011.



**FOLLOW THE CONSTRUCTION  
PROCESS OF SANGREN HALL AT:**  
[www.fm.wmich.edu/planning/newsangrenhall](http://www.fm.wmich.edu/planning/newsangrenhall)

**WATCH  
US ON  
THE  
WEB!**



I loved my career, and in hindsight, I know it will make me a better teacher. I was a math major in college and ended up in engineering and project management--areas I didn't even consider in high school. I'll be able to tell students about the career paths that will open up for them with a technical background."

At WMU, the program will be a strong field-based effort focused on preparing teachers for work in urban settings. The University has partnered with two large school districts--Benton Harbor Area Schools and Kalamazoo Public Schools--to ensure fellows have a wealth of experience in the classroom.

The fellowship program at WMU will lead to certification in mathematics, chemistry and physics. Certification will be earned during the first year and the program will ultimately lead to a master's degree.

Fellows, who will begin their studies in the coming weeks, make a three-year commitment to teach in one of Michigan's high-need districts as part of the fellowship program. The first cohort of fellows will seek teaching positions for fall 2012 employment. Through the fellowship program and during their first three years of teaching, they will receive intensive support and mentoring to encourage them to continue their professional development and work with Michigan youth.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Woodrow Wilson Michigan Teaching Fellows who will study at WMU are:

- **Shanda Bennett of Wyoming, Mich.** She is a 2009 graduate of Grand Valley State University who majored in cell and molecular biology and was involved in undergraduate research on orchid embryos. She is a certified phlebotomist.

- **Karen Deppe of Marshall, Mich.** She is a 1979 graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in metallurgical engineering. She has 15 years of experience in a laboratory and manufacturing environment and has been a volunteer math tutor and teaching assistant in three schools as well as a substitute teacher.

- **Mark Garrod of Lansing, Mich.** He is a 2011 graduate of Michigan State University with a major in mathematics and a track record as a college teaching assistant and a volunteer coach for high school quiz bowl and Science Olympiad teams. He also has taught English as a second language.

- **Helen Hale of Kalamazoo.** She is a 1988 graduate of Mississippi Valley State University who majored in biology and has experience as a laboratory technician. She is the director of a childcare center and youth program and has been working with young people for more than 15 years.

- **Sarah Jenzen of Grosse Pointe, Mich.** She is scheduled to graduate in June from Kalamazoo College with a degree in mathematics and psychology. She has been a peer consultant in K-College's Math and Physics Center, a math mentor and an elementary school math tutor.

- **Melanie Kapolka of Pleasant Ridge, Mich.** She is a 2011 graduate of Albion College who majored in biology and minored in chemistry. She has been a teaching assistant for an introductory biology lab, a coach and swim instructor, and a community volunteer.

- **Mitchell Overway of Holland, Mich.** He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in health sciences from Grand Valley State University in 1988 and 1990, respectively. He is a full-time minister who works with at-risk teens and adults and has been a teaching assistant, tutor, and lab instructor in human anatomy and physiology as well as a youth coach.

- **Onika Powell of Kalamazoo.** She is a 2006 graduate of the University of Florida who majored in microbiology. She has been a clinical researcher and lab mycologist as well as an elementary school tutor, a chemistry teaching assistant and a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

- **Travis Smith of Kalamazoo and Greensboro, N.C.** He is a 2010 graduate of Kalamazoo College who has a degree in mathematics. Fluent in Spanish, he has been an assistant high school math teacher in Ecuador, an algebra camp counselor and a pre-calculus tutor for high-need

students and a study host for the Caribbean Society of Kalamazoo.

- **Trevor Stefanick of Kalamazoo.** He is a 2004 WMU alumnus who has just completed a Master's degree in physics, also from WMU. He has served as a part-time faculty member at both WMU and Kalamazoo Valley Community College and as a theatre volunteer with high-risk high school students.

- **Kerry Steinke of Kalamazoo.** She is a 2009 WMU alumna who majored in biomedical sciences and Spanish and minored in chemistry. She has been a lab technician with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, working on plum pox virus, and a quality control lab technician at Perrigo testing finished products.

- **Loretta Vaara of Holland, Mich.** She is a 1988 alumna of WMU who majored in mathematics, and then earned an MBA at Wayne State University in 1994. She is a former program manager, quality engineer and systems engineer for the automotive industry and is an active volunteer with school and community youth.

The first round of fellowship recipients also included a WMU alumnus who will go to the University of Michigan for his fellowship work. **Richard Ostrowski of Byron, Mich.,** is a 2009 WMU graduate who majored in anthropology and environmental studies.

In addition to WMU and the U of M, other Michigan universities hosting WWKF-WW Michigan Teaching Fellows are Eastern Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University and Wayne State University. The universities are partnering with seven public school districts.

The inaugural 2011 fellowship competition generated some 48,000 inquiries and more than 1,500 applications. The selection process included initial screening, a full-day of interviews driven by a team of veteran STEM researchers and an admissions review process by the partner universities.



For the last two years, students at WMU have been participating in academic service learning through a program organized by the Division of Multicultural Affairs and funded by a grant from the Michigan Campus Compact. Teacher candidates in the Secondary Education Program working with **Drs. Allison Kelaher-Young and Jeffrey Jones**, and Spanish students working with **Dr. Michael Millar**, are engaged in local schools and community organizations to provide academic and social support to K-12 students.

This opportunity allows Western students to make important connections between course concepts and youth experience, and an evaluation is identifying positive outcomes. Many education students note that academic service learning has changed their views on teaching and learning. One student reported that "I have to learn to deal with each student in a different way." A high school student shared that the program makes her feel better prepared for college, "because I was taught how to take notes and choose what I need."

**Dr. Erika Carr** and **Diana Hernandez**, the Associate Director and Director of the Division of Multicultural Affairs, are assisted by a number of graduate students and community practitioners in implementing this program, including **Ashley King, Derek Andree, Walter Malone, Tania Echavarría, Lori Mercedes, and Angelita Aguilar-Nivala**. This working group recently presented this service program at the annual Governor's Education Summit in Lansing.

Alumna **Stacy Reed** was awarded "Special Education Teacher of the Year" in St. Joseph County. She is currently a special education teacher for Mendon Middle and High Schools. She wants to thank the Department of Special Education and Literacy Studies because "this (award) is a direct reflection of the education I received at WMU."

**Aoi Yamanaka**, master's student in HESA Leadership, is the 2010-11 recipient of the Paul and Phyllis Griffeth Endowed Scholarship for Outstanding Promise as a Student Affairs Professional.

**Sara Morales**, master's student in HESA Leadership and full-time hall director at Michigan State University (MSU), received the MSU Department of Residence Life Director of the Year for 2010-2011.

WMU alumnus **Richard Njus**, a longtime educator, author returned to his alma mater Tuesday, April 19, to talk about his book, which is gleaned from his more than three decades in the education field.

As part of the College of Education and Human Development's Distinguished Speaker Series,



Njus held a reception and book signing following his presentation in the Fetzer Center lobby.

Njus, an elementary school principal for more than 30 years, wrote the book *Touching Hearts, Educating Minds*, which is described as a "story of a school with soul and determination." In an era of widespread standardized testing of students, grading of schools and government mandates placed on educators, the book shares what truly can make a difference. "Touching Hearts, Educating Minds" shows that it's not tests, curriculum and mandates, but the culture of a school in which those are played out that most deeply impacts a child's learning.

CECP faculty and students presented at the Michigan Association for Marriage and Family Therapy annual conference in Lansing in mid-April. **Bradly Hinman**, doctoral student in Counselor Education, conducted a workshop on "Interventions to Treat and Reduce Internet Pornography's Impact on Adolescents." Presenting posters were master's students **April Oglesby** and **Anna Proulx**: "Considerations for Treating PTSD in African-American Families," and Counseling Psychology doctoral student **Brian Doane** and faculty member **Dr. Gary Bischof**: "Handling Secrets in Couple Therapy."



The State Farm Foundation made it possible to provide financial assistance to thirty students in the College of Education and Human Development. Some of these students completed their internships in Spring 2011 and the remainder of the awardees will intern this Fall. Awards, valued at \$1,000 each, were made based upon the following criteria:

- commitment to pursue a career in public education
- experience in urban settings and/or schools struggling to meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress)
- financial need

- preparation to teach in core academic subject areas
- special circumstances impacting the applicant
- scholarship

A reception was held on Wednesday, April 13 in Lansing to honor recipients of the State Farm Foundation Intern Teaching Scholarship as well as State Farm for its gift to the College.

Legislators from the hometowns of recipients attended this event, hosted by WMU's Development Office. In addition, staff and faculty members of the College of Education and Human Development, student's family members, mentor teachers, and University Coordinators were also present at this ceremony.



A statewide organization presented community service awards to five Western Michigan University students during the 15th annual Outstanding Student Service Awards ceremony April 9 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.

The awards were presented by the Michigan Campus Compact, a coalition of 38 colleges and universities from around the state. WMU students who received awards were:

- **Angela Bowman**, a sophomore from Taylor, Mich., studying social work.
- **Natalie Graetzel**, a senior from Brighton, Mich., studying art.
- **Marida Little**, a sophomore from Detroit studying social work.
- **Kathleen Paaue**, a senior from Mattawan, Mich., studying family studies.
- **Janell Raisanen**, a junior from Waterford, Mich., studying accountancy.

Paaue and Raisanen received the Commitment to Service Award, which recognizes two students per MCC member campus for either the breadth or the depth of their community involvement. Only 45 students of the 350 honored this year received this award.

The remaining three students received the Heart and Soul Award, which recognizes students for time, effort and personal commitment to their communities through service.

Family and Consumer Sciences undergraduate dietetics student, **Daniel Barrett**, won a Michigan Dietetics Association scholarship in May.

Counselor Education and Counseling Psychology Professor **Gary H. Bischof**, Counseling Psychology doctoral student **Mark Barajas**, and Marriage, Couple & Family Counseling master's students **Bethany Warnaar** and **Harkiran "Nina" Dhaliwal** recently had an article published in the Michigan Family Review. "Thematic Analysis of the Experiences of Wives Who Stay with Husbands who Transition Male-to-Female" is a qualitative analysis of the experiences of the wives of 14 male-to-female transsexuals appearing in Virginia Erhardt's 2007 book, *Head over Heels: Wives Who Stay with Cross-Dressers and Transsexuals*.

**Brian Horvitz** (ELRT) presented a paper June 29, 2011 at ED-MEDIA 2011--World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia & Telecommunications in Lisbon, Portugal. He presented on behalf of his co-authors **Andrea Beach** (ELRT) and **Mary L. Anderson**



Dr. Brian Horvitz

(CECP). Their paper is titled "The Transition to Online Teaching: Examining Faculty Motivators, Demotivators and Self-Efficacy." Travel to this conference was possible, in part, through an award from the Diether H.



Dr. Andrea Beach

Haenicke Institute for Global Education's International Education Faculty Development Fund. Funding was also provided by the College of Education and Human Development Travel Fund and the Department of Educational Leadership, Research & Technology Travel Fund.



Dr. Mary L. Anderson

WMU's new Hybrid Online Master's Degree Program in Special (Adapted) Physical Education has accepted 27 students who have the opportunity to earn a free master's degree, with tuition and textbooks covered by a federal grant. The initiative, announced in January, is supported by a \$1.18 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The work is directed by **Dr. Jiabei Zhang**, professor of adapted physical education, coordinated by **Dr. James Lewis**, associate professor of recreation and technology, and assisted by **Mrs. Munselle Pientka**, office coordinator of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. In addition to tuition and textbooks, the grant provides an on-campus adapted physical education lab staffed by two graduate assistants. Also involved in the project are **Dr. Yuanlong Liu**, professor of measurement and evaluation, who will assess the effort, and WMU President **Dr. John M. Dunn**, professor of adapted physical education, who has served as a consultant on the grant. An additional 11 graduate students will be recruited to begin the program in fall 2012. Those interested in the program should contact **Dr. Jiabei Zhang** at [zhangj@wmich.edu](mailto:zhangj@wmich.edu) or (269) 387-2949.



Between July 2010 and March 2011, **Dr. Gary Miron** served as an advisor for a project that investigated irregularities in student assessment data in five states. The work involved a systematic review of data that focused on precipitous gains or drops in mean student performance coupled with irregular increases or decreases in student erasures that involved wrong-to-right changes in answers. The findings from the District of Columbia garnered the most attention because they coincided with the tenure of Chancellor of Public Schools, **Michelle Rhee**, who was giving teachers \$8,000 and administrators \$10,000 for demonstrating large gains. **Dr. Miron's** involvement in this project was highlighted in a front-cover story in USA Today as well as in a 10-minute interview he provided to MSNBC in early April.



On June 1, **Dr. Gary Miron**, Educational Leadership, Research and Technology, was invited as an expert witness on school reform for a Congressional hearing in Washington DC. The hearing was held by the House Education and the Workforce committee. Before the hearing, Miron had the chance to meet with some of Michigan's representatives including Congressman **Kildee** (5th District in Michigan) who also sits on the Education and the Workforce committee.

Trustees approved the creation of an event management minor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation. The minor utilizes University expertise and responds to both growth in professional opportunities and increased student interest in the subject.

**Dr. Allison Baer**, Associate Professor of Special Education and Literacy Studies will have the following articles published this summer; **Baer, A. L.** (In press). "Diversions: Finding space to talk about young adult literature in a juvenile home." *The ALAN Review*.



**Glasgow, J. N., & Baer, A. L.** (In press). "Lives beyond suffering: The child soldiers of African wars." *English Journal*.

**Dr. Regena Nelson**, Professor in Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies, had a book chapter published in May.



**Nelson, R.F.** (2011). "The school readiness of preschoolers from urban backgrounds." In **D.M. Laverick & M.R. Jalongo** (Eds.), *Transition to early care and education: International perspectives on making schools ready for young children* (pp. 107-115). Springer International: New York



# Faculty and Staff News *cont.*



**Dr. Jeffrey Jones** is studying motivation in alternative education and school practices that promote student engagement. His article, "Narratives of student engagement in an alternative learning context," is forthcoming in the *Journal of Education for Students Placed At Risk (JESPAR)*. This research presents narratives that describe how students construct stories of transition in their schooling. Dr. Jones is also preparing an article for an edited volume on student engagement that examines how the affordances of the learning environment interact with motivational processes through student perspectives.



**Dr. Robert Leneway**, Associate Professor, Educational Technology was honored with the 2011 Charles E. Chipping Adobe Educational Leader Impact award for his significant contributions to the higher educational community and Adobe. He was cited for "providing peer training, support, research and inspiration for implementing effective technology solutions in the classroom and on campus." He shared this year's honor with Lieve Weymenis, KaHo Sint-Lieven, Netherlands. He presented at the 2011 EduComm conference on Best High Education Practices with Adobe Connect on June 14th in Orlando, FL. Dr. Leneway has been an Adobe Educational Leader since first selected to represent Michigan higher educational institution in 2005.



**Dr. Tetyana Koshmanova**, Professor of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies, recently had an article published in a peer-reviewed, refereed *Journal of Russian and East European Psychology*, edited by Pentti Hakkarainen, University of Oulu, Finland and Michael Cole, University of California, San Diego.



Koshmanova, T.S. (2011) "The School of Dialogue of Cultures: Legacies and Prospects." *Journal of Russian and East European Psychology*, 49 (2), March-April 2011, 23-29.

**Dr. Deb Berkey** served as the keynote speaker for the Bangor High School Athletic Gathering on May 20. An invited guest speaker, Berkey addressed student athletes, faculty, parents and guests at the event staged in the high school auditorium. Berkey's address was titled "The Student Who Participates in Athletics 'L.E.A.R.N.S.'"



McQuirter



Helms



Ludwig

CoEHD advisors **M'Myia McQuirter**, **Jessica Hutchinson** and **Anthony Helms**, along with former CoEHD advisors **Christine Robinson** and **Bette Ludwig**, traveled to Normal, IL in April to present at the Region V NACADA Conference. McQuirter, Hutchinson and Helms presented research on the growing role of academic advising to meet the needs of the rapidly increasing number of transfer students within 4-year universities. This expanding role includes conducting classroom presentation and on-site advising at community colleges to disseminate vital information, assisting in the writing and implementation of articulation agreements to assist with the transfer of credits and building relationships between advising offices. Robinson and Ludwig presented on new and improved ways to implement technology in advising offices to meet the needs of the modern-day, technologically-savvy college student. Both presentations received excellent reviews and the advisors were able to attend other presentations and workshops throughout the 4-day conference.



Hutchinson



Robinson

In addition to traditional advising topics, Anthony also presented some of his anthropology research on human biological sex identification with a focus on how it impacts the structure of higher education and, more specifically, how advisors advise students.

On June 22, storytellers for 'The Moth', New York's hottest literary phenomenon and non-profit organization dedicated to storytelling, came to Grand Rapids.

Five storytellers shared their short stories of comedy and calamity with a packed house at Royce Auditorium. Among the storytellers was **Dr. Allison Downey**, Assistant Professor in Elementary Education. The shows are part of a larger effort to bring real life tales and storytellers to different spots across the country instead of just having their stories broadcast over the radio. 'The Moth' can be heard in West Michigan on NPR and Michigan Radio. Since it sprang up in New York in the mid-nineties the short storytelling has become wildly popular.



# In Memoriam



**Donald E. Boven**, a former faculty member and coach at Western Michigan University, died March 10 in Kalamazoo. He was 86.



Boven began his long career at WMU, his alma mater, in 1953 and retired in 1986 after 32-1/2 years of service to the

University. An associate professor of health, physical education and recreation, he served as head basketball coach from 1958 to 1966. Prior to that, he taught sports and physical education classes while also serving as an assistant coach for football, basketball and baseball. He was a full-time faculty member after stepping down from coaching.

**Dr. Rollin G. Douma**, a longtime administrator and faculty member at Western Michigan University, died March 12 in Kalamazoo. He was 70.



Douma came to WMU in 1970 after beginning his career in education as a high

school English teacher in Birmingham and Plymouth, Mich. He retired in 2006 as associate vice president for academic affairs and associate professor emeritus of English. The talented administrator served in a variety of posts during his 36 years of service to the University. He was appointed associate vice president in 2003 and, for a year before that, was interim dean of what is now the College of Education and Human Development.

**Aura (Michell) Artavia**, who worked in the ETS computer labs in the spring semester (and who was to return to the labs in the fall), was killed in a car accident in Grand Rapids May 29, 2011. Artavia,



who went by "Michell," was also a food server at the senior living community of Freedom Village. Our thoughts are with the family and friends of Michell.

**Barbara (Boyle) Mehoke**, a former WMU faculty member, died May 17 in Palm Springs, Calif. She was 84. Mehoke joined the faculty in 1966 and retired as an assistant professor emerita of



education in 1990 after 24 years of service to the University.

She taught undergraduate teacher education courses and guided student teachers through

their initial classroom assignments in schools throughout Oakland, Wayne and Macomb counties.

Donations may be made to The Oakland Press Newspaper in Education Program [www.theoaklandpress.com/nie/](http://www.theoaklandpress.com/nie/)

**Dr. Larissa "Aisa" Valera Frias**, Dr. Larissa "Aisa" Valera Frias, a popular Western Michigan University faculty member, died suddenly in her sleep June 5. She was 38.

Frias was an assistant professor of family and consumer sciences specializing in family studies. She joined the WMU faculty in 2008, after having begun her career in education as a guidance counselor and then an instructor at the University of the Philippines.



During her time at WMU, Frias became well-known among students, faculty and staff for her cheerfulness, positivity and commitment to learning. She regularly taught courses on culture and families,

parenting, and international families.

Her research areas encompassed children's understanding of peace and war, and acculturation and family experiences of Filipino immigrants in the U.S. She presented at numerous conferences, was a faculty advisor for the student honor society Kappa Omicron Nu, and served as a member of the Great Start Collaborative Parenting Education Committee in Kalamazoo.

Frias's love of the Philippines and for children resulted in her establishing, along with her husband Arnold Frias and sister Polly Delos Santos, the iLearn Foundation. Located in the Philippines, iLearn offers training for childcare professionals, developmentally appropriate assessments of children and therapy for children.

Frias earned a master's degree in psychology from the University of the Philippines and a doctoral degree in child development and family studies from Purdue University.

Memorial donations may be made to the Aisa Frias Memorial Fund to support the operations of iLearn.

- Make checks payable to "Aisa Frias Memorial Fund"
- Send in care of the WMU Department of Family and Consumer Sciences:

Family and Consumer Sciences  
Western Michigan University  
Kalamazoo MI 49008-5322 USA





Let us know what's happening in your life! Submit your news, as well as updates to your contact information, by clicking the online update button on the home page of [wmich.edu/education](http://wmich.edu/education).

**1980**

**John Howk**, a teacher at Jefferson Elementary School in Grand Rapids, Mich., recently received the Michigan Council for Exceptional Children's Teacher of the Year Award.

**1984**

**Amy Kendryna** is the principal at Spring Trail Elementary School in Carol Stream, ILL.

**1987**

**David Barry** (BA '87, MA '90, EdD '02) will be the new superintendent of Zeeland, Mich. Public Schools starting July 1.

**1991**

**Dr. Gerald Juhnke** currently directs the doctoral program in counseling at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Although he's authored eight academic books, he just authored his first novel titled, *ABDUCTED: Dr. Wade Stone San Antonio - Stone Oak*

**1992**

**Julie Camp** was elected to serve on the Kellogg Community College board of trustees. Her six-year term begins July 1.

**2000**

**Cory Cunningham** (BS '00, MA '08), is the varsity football coach for the South Haven (Mich.) Rams at L.C. Mohr High School.

**2002**

Congratulations to WMU alumnus **Matthew McCullough** (BA '02, MA '09), a social studies teacher at Loy Norrix High School in Kalamazoo for receiving an Excellence Award for Educational Excellence at MEA's Human Rights & Excellence Award Banquet on April 29. The award is reserved for educators with a demonstrated commitment to educational excellence and a concern for the improvement of education focusing on the student.

**2003**

**Trevor Davidson** is the eighth grade head football coach and a first-year teacher for Mill Creek Middle School in Dexter, Mich.

**2005**

**Jessica Butcher**, a registered dietician, is a health coach for HelloLife, LLC, an applied life science and technology company specializing in health and wellness, headquartered in Grand Rapids, Mich.

**Jonathan Lenze**, a certified Athletic Trainer (2008) is currently working on his master's degree at The University of Wyoming and will be completing his master's degree and thesis research at The University of Montana.

**2006**

**Carla Zidarevich** received her bachelor's in Textile and Apparel Design in December 2006. Since then, she has been working as a Technical Designer in Target's PD&D division at their headquarters in Minneapolis. Specializing in home products including bedding, kitchen textiles, table linens, and seasonal product, she has received two promotions and traveled throughout the U.S. and China meeting with vendors and developing products. Carla was quoted saying "I wouldn't have had my start without the education I received from Western."

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### "PHILANTHROPIST IN EDUCATION"

Dedicated to the College, faculty and students, Leta Schoenhals originally graduated from the campus school that was connected to Western State Teachers College in 1942. She selected teaching as a major while attending the laboratory school. In her junior year she married Neil Schoenhals, a fellow student. In 1958 she earned her master's degree in teaching in the middle school core curriculum, then in 1965 earned a specialist degree in education in guidance and counseling. Leta served for many years as a counselor in the Portage school system, retiring in 1980.

Community involvement has been part of Leta's life for many years. Serving as president and board member of the Kalamazoo chapter of the Association for Retired School Personnel (KARSP), she earned the Service Award from the Michigan chapter. The WMU Friends of the University Libraries organization has benefited by her presidency as well.

Leta's associates have described her glowingly as "involved, caring, efficient, and philanthropic." Philanthropy is a quality that is especially evident since Neil's death in 1975. That year the Schoenhals family established the Neil L. and Leta C. Schoenhals Undergraduate Memorial Scholarship for "outstanding industrial technology students planning careers in education." For more than 30 years, college seniors have benefitted from the Schoenhals' generosity and commitment to WMU.

Leta was a 2006 recipient of the College of Education and Human Development's Alumni Society Golden Apple Award for her outstanding drive, energy, diligence and kindness.



Leta Schoenhals

Reconnect with fellow College of Education and Human Development alums through these social networking sites:





# Keep in Touch!

We like to keep in touch with our Alumni. What's new with you? Promotion? Marriage? Retirement? Whatever your achievement or accomplishment, we'd like to hear about it and post in the class notes section of our quarterly newsletter.

Please send us information about address changes, career changes, recognitions received and other news you would like to share with your former classmates, friends, colleagues and professors in our class notes section. E-mail updates to [jillian.grosscup@wmich.edu](mailto:jillian.grosscup@wmich.edu).

The College of Education and Human Development Newsletter is published for alumni, emeriti and friends of the College of Education and Human Development at Western Michigan University. If you would like more information about the programs in the CoEHD, have questions or suggestions, or if you have a submission for the newsletter, please contact:

Jillian Grosscup, Coordinator of Marketing and Communications | 1903 W. Michigan Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5229  
telephone: (269) 387-2971 | fax: (269) 387-2882

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Alumni Society Board Members and guests at CommUniverCity - Annual Alumni Event

## Giving

Thank you for making a gift to the College of Education and Human Development. You can direct your gift to a specific department, program or scholarship or you can give an unrestricted gift that can be used where it is needed most. It's up to you. If you like, you can call and discuss your interests or ideas. We're happy to talk to you about where you would like to direct your gift.

Here are just a few ways that annual gifts have helped students:

- Providing funds for travel to professional conferences
- Helping to fund student teaching internships
- Supporting the general scholarship fund for the CoEHD (over \$300,000 was awarded in scholarships last year)
- Funding student research projects

Here's how to give:

<http://www.wmich.edu/education/giving/index.html> to donate online. If you prefer, use the form below.

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Restricted to the following department or program

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Please send your tax deductible gift to:

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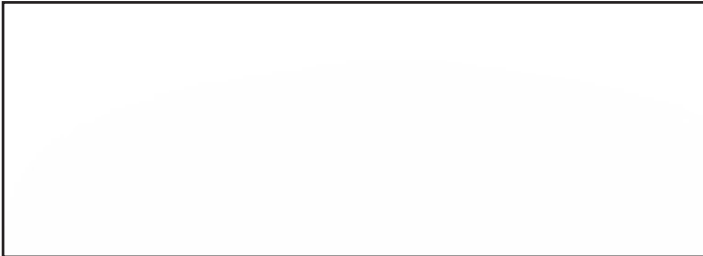
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